

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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**EASLEY MEETS WITH REPUBLICAN LEGISLATORS;
DISCUSSES CURRENT BUDGET SITUATION**

RALEIGH -- Gov. Mike Easley today met with Republican legislators to explain the State's current financial position and share with them a recent letter from Moody's regarding the State's AAA bond rating.

"The 90 minute meeting was very cordial and constructive," said Easley. "I asked them to join me in my efforts to find solutions to the problems that we are facing, and I sought their cooperation in giving my administration the flexibility to find necessary savings to trim state government without making cuts to the classroom. In the past five months, we have been able to cut nearly \$500 million through efficient management of our agencies."

"During the meeting, I solicited their thoughts for new revenue to protect the fiscal integrity of the state without making devastating cuts to education," said Easley. "I look forward to hearing their ideas."

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